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subjects, it is really an outline text-book, with directions for the practical demonstration of the facts which in an ordinary text-book stand simply as statements on authority. The student who has worked through it should be an expert and well-trained physiologist; if not, he may ask himself if he had not better turn his attention to other things. Unfortunately, the usual college elective does not allow time for making expert specialists, and the teacher who can devote but a short time to experimental physiology is likely to prefer one of the smaller and cheaper books for the direct guidance of his classes, though he cannot afford to allow them to do their work without constant reference to the more comprehensive handbooks, foremost among which stands this of Detmer.

T.

Minnesota Botanical Studies. — In January, 1894, *Bulletin No. 9 of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota* was begun as an occasional serial, the intention being to page the parts consecutively until a volume should be completed. In March, 1898, the twelfth part was issued, completing the first volume of the *Bulletin*. This volume contains fifty separate articles by twenty authors, dealing with a wide range of subjects, by no means confined to Minnesota geographically. It is illustrated by eighty-one plates or maps, and, as completed with its very full index, contains 1093 pages octavo. While unlimited praise cannot be bestowed on all of its contents, it is a valuable addition to the shelves of any botanical library which may be fortunate enough to possess it; but one cannot help wondering at the liberality of the State Survey of Minnesota in allowing so much matter wholly foreign to the usual purposes of such surveys to be published and distributed at the expense of the state.

T.

Edible Fungi. — To the already rather copious literature intended to facilitate discrimination between edible and poisonous fungi, Professor Farlow has recently added a small conservatively written article, which has been reissued in pamphlet form from the *Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture* for 1897.¹ Limiting himself to a very few species of both classes, which are accurately and yet tersely described in language which should be readily understood by any person of intelligence, the writer states a few rules which "should not be neglected by the beginner" in the following words: 1. Avoid

¹ Farlow, W. G. Some Edible and Poisonous Fungi. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1898. United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, *Bull. No. 15*. 18 pp., 10 pls., 8°.